

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 02880 061626Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 L-02 /056 W

----- 039600

O P 061515Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7425

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CASABLANCA FOR RCAA WHITMAN; LAGOS ALSO FOR FAA:

MONROVIA FOR ASST SECY DAVIS

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: EAIR GH US

SUB: PAN AM ACCRA RIGHTS FURTHER RESTRICTED

REF (A) ACCRA 6251, 11/11/74

(B) ACCRA 6459 11/19/74

(C) ACCRA 6601 11/27/74

(D) STATE 037671

(E) MONROVIA 1295

(F) ACCRA 1475

(G) ACCRA 1973

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 02880 061626Z

(H) STATE 084992

(ALL NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PAN AM REP (MILLER) RECEIVED LETTER TODAY FROM DIRECTOR CIVIL AVIATION (DWEMOH) APPROVING SUMMER SCHEDULES WITH TRAFFIC RIGHTS ACCRA TO AND FROM NEW YORK, KINSHASA, AND JOHANNESBURG ONLY. I.E., TRAFFIC RIGHTS ACCRA TO AND FROM DAKAR, MONROVIA, AND NAIROBI WITHDRAWN "WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT," AND THOSE EARLIER RESTRICTED WITH KINSHASA (REFTELS A TO C) HAVE BEEN RESTORED.

2. MILLER SAYS HE TOLD DWEMOH HE COULD NOT SIMPLY TURN FLIGHTS OFF AT MOMENT'S NOTICE, AND NEEDS AT LEAST UNTIL END OF MAY. HE IS SEEKING APPOINTMENTS TODAY WITH DWEMOH AND WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR GHANA AIRWAYS (KORANTANG), TO WHOM HE REFERRED BY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (AGYEKUM), FOR CLARIFICATION.

3. AT APRIL 22 MEETING BETWEEN HANAM SR. V.P. FLANAGAN AND AGYEKUM, ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR, E/C COUNSELOR, AND MILLER, AGYEKUM INDICATED THAT LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE MAY BE TAKING AWAY FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FROM ALL, INCLUDING GHANA AIRWAYS, AND THAT THEREFORE GOG MIGHT HAVE TO RESTRICT PANAM ON SAME SECTORS. THIS POINT WAS NOT FURTHER CLARIFIED AT THAT OR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.

4. IT SO FAR UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS IS FURTHER, PLANNED SLICING AWAY AT PANAM RIGHTS IN ORDER TO FORCE USG INTO GRANTING GOG ITS DESIRED AVIATION BILATERAL AGREEMENT, WHETHER THIS IS SIMPLY A MANIFESTATION OF THE GENERAL AFRICAN WEST COAST RESTRICTIONS AGYEKUM REFERRED TO, OR--AS SEEMS LIKELY--A COMBINATION OF BOTH.

5. ONLY CARRIERS CURRENTLY SERVING ACCRA WITH TRAFFIC RIGHTS IN WEST AFRICAN SERVICE ARE ALITALIA (ONCE A WEEK-ACCRA-ABIDJAN IN THAT DIRECTION ONLY) AND ETHIOPIAN (ACCRA-KINSHASA), IN ADDITION OF COURSE TO GHANA, NIGERIAN, AND AIR AFRIQUE, AND -THUS FAR-PANAM. (ETHIOPIAN ALSO SERVES ACCRA-NAIROBI.)
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PAGE 03 ACCRA 02880 061626Z

6. AGYEKUM AT MEETING WITH FLANAGAN SEVERAL TIMES URGED THAT US-GHANA AVIATION PROBLEMS BE TAKEN OUT OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTEXT AND WORKED OUT BETWEEN GHANA AIRWAYS (GH) AND PANAM. FLANAGAN AGREED, WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT PANAM WAS A PRIVATE FIRM WHICH NOT COMPETENT ON SUBJECT OF BILATERAL. AT AGYEKUM'S INVITATION FLANAGAN LEFT LETTER FOR KORANTANG DATED APRIL 23 SUGGESTING GH-PA

"DISCUSSIONS TO DEVELOP THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COMPANIES AND WORK TOWARD CLOSER COOPERATION," PREFERABLY AT NEW YORK BUT ALTERNATIVELY ACCRA. NO RESPONSE YET TO LETTER, ACCORDING TO MILLER.

7. FLANAGAN POINTED OUT TO AGYEKUM AND TO COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING FELLI AND COMMISSIONER FOR TRADE AND TOURISM IDDISAH, ALL IN SEPARATE MEETINGS, THAT FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS ESSENTIAL TO PANAM IN AFRICA TO KEEP SERVICE VIABLE; FLANAGAN SAID THAT PANAM HAD COME UP WITH 5-YEAR PLAN WHICH WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED FLIGHTS TO ACCRA, BUT THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY INTERCEDED TO KEEP ACCRA IN THE PICTURE. PENDING TAX CLAIM AGAINST PANAM DID NOT HELP HIS CASE, HE SAID. ALL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FLANAGAN'S REPORTED PERSONAL EFFORT, BUT WE WONDER HOW CONVINCED THEY ARE THIS IS GENUINE OR JUST NEGOTIATING TACTIC.

8. FLANAGAN ALSO HAD MEETING, AGAIN WITH AMBASSADOR, E/C COUNSELOR, AND MILLER PRESENT, WITH BLANKSON-MILLS OF CENTRAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT REGARDING 21-YEAR, DOLS. 830,000 BACK TAX CLAIM AGAINST PANAM. THIS MEETING SOMEWHAT DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF, WITH REVENUE OFFICIALS NOT FULLY INFORMED ON STATE OF PALY OF BILATERAL, UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO ACCEPT FACT THAT PANAM AND USG SEPARATE, AND OFT REPEATING THEY SIMPLY FOLLOWING ORDERS AND TAX CLAIM MUST BE PAID UNLESS BILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNED.

9. IN RELATED MATTER, BOTH IDDISAH AND FELLI RAISED WITH FLANAGAN QUESTION OF INVESTMENT IN GHANA BY INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS. FLANAGAN SAID THIS A SUBSIDIARY OF PANAM FOR WHOM HE NOT EMPOWERED TO TALK BUT HE WOULD REPORT GOG INTEREST TO PANAM. BLACK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 ACCRA 02880 061626Z

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